areas, progressive enlargement of TDS provisions, and increase in the scope of service tax are some of the areas which are expected to yield increased revenue.

Reduction of import duty on palmolein

986. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the reduction of import duty of palm oil from 75% to 65%;

(b) whether Government are aware that the reduction of import duty of palm oil adversely affects the coconut industry and thereby the interest of coconut farmers;

(c) whether Government will review the decision to reduce the import duty of palm oil considering the pathetic condition of the coconut farmers; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The customs duty on crude palm oil was reduced by the Government after consideration of all aspects.

(b) to (d) Government has received some representations from certain farmers organizations, etc. against reduction in import duty on palm oil. There is no proposal at present to review the decision to reduce the import duty on palm oil. However, in view of the prices of copra ruling below the minimum support price (MSP) during 2000 and 2001 season, NAFED procured 2.30 lakhs metric tonnes of copra at the minimum support price fixed by the Government. The MSP fixed for 2001 season is Rs. 3550 per quintal of ball copra and Rs. 3300 per quintal of milling copra.